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Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

Fifty-seventh session

Summary record of the second part (public)* of the 20th meeting**
Held at the Palais Wilson, Geneva, on Friday, 4 March 2016, at 3 p.m.

Chair: Mr. Sadi

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* No summary record was prepared for the first part (closed) of the meeting.
** No summary records were issued for the 11th to 19th meetings.

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The discussion covered in the summary record began at 4.20 p.m.

Substantive issues arising in the implementation of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (*continued*)

1. **The Chair**, reviewing the activities and meetings that had taken place during the session, said that the Committee had considered the reports of three States parties and was grateful for the additional meeting time granted to it under General Assembly resolution 68/268. Events would be held throughout the year to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of the Covenant and its sister treaty, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

2. The Committee had continued its work under the Optional Protocol to the Covenant and had examined two communications, one of which had been declared inadmissible while in the other it had been determined that no violation had occurred. Two general comments had been adopted, namely No. 22 on the right to sexual and reproductive health and No. 23 on the right to just and favourable conditions of work. In addition, the Committee had discussed general comments on human rights, the environment and development; business and human rights; and the right to enjoy the benefits of scientific progress. It had also discussed two substantive statements, one on public debt and the other on refugee rights, which it had agreed to refine with a view to adopting them at the next session.

3. The Committee had reviewed its working methods within the context of the treaty body strengthening process and had adopted tentative programmes of work for its fifty-eighth and fifty-ninth sessions. It had held an informal meeting with States parties, an event it hoped to repeat on an annual basis.

Consideration of reports (*continued*)

(a) Reports submitted by States parties in accordance with articles 16 and 17 of the Covenant (*continued*) (E/C.12/CAN/CO/6, E/C.12/KEN/CO/2-5, E/C.12/NAM/CO/1)

4. **The Chair** said that, if there were no objections, he would take it that the Committee wished to adopt its concluding observations on the reports of Canada (E/C.12/CAN/CO/6), Kenya (E/C.12/KEN/CO/2-5) and Namibia (E/C.12/NAM/CO/1).

5. *It was so decided.*

Submission of reports by States parties in accordance with articles 16 and 17 of the Covenant (*continued*) (E/C.12/BGR/QPR/R.6, E/C.12/ESP/QPR/R.6, E/C.12/NZL/QPR/R.4)

6. **The Chair**, recalling that the Committee had chosen to pilot the simplified reporting procedure under resolution 68/268, said that, if there were no objections, he would take it that the Committee wished to adopt the draft lists of issues prior to reporting in respect of Bulgaria (E/C.12/BGR/QPR/R.6), Spain (E/C.12/ESP/QPR/R.6) and New Zealand (E/C.12/NZL/QPR/R.4).

7. *It was so decided.*

Closure of the session

8. Following an exchange of courtesies, **the Chair** declared closed the fifty-seventh session of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

The meeting rose at 4.25 p.m.